

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A CCD imager of the type having an image area in which charge is generated and clocked to an output, comprising an image area divided into a plurality of parallel channels by channel wallsedges, at least some of the parallel channels being further divided by path defining structures to create at least a principal path and one or more secondary paths; the principal and one or more secondary paths being arranged such that charge overflowing from the principal path during charge transfer is retained within the one or more secondary paths before the channel wallsedges.

15. (Previously Presented) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the secondary paths are arranged to converge on the principal path.

16. (Currently Amended) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the principal path is defined at one side of the a parallel channel.

17. (Currently Amended) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein, the principal path is defined in the middle of the a parallel channel.

18. (Currently Amended) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the width of the a parallel channel is divided into the principal path and two or more secondary paths.

19. (Previously Presented) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the path defining structures allow signal charge above a predetermined amount to spill from either the principal path or a secondary path into an adjacent secondary path.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the path defining structures comprise compensating barrier implants.

22. (Previously Presented) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the path defining structures comprise additional buried channel implants.

23. (Previously Presented) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the path has a V-shaped potential profile.

24. (Currently Amended) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the principal path is through ~~the a parallel~~ channel and the one or more secondary paths are across the channel width; the principal and one or more secondary paths being arranged such that charge spilling from the principal path fills the adjacent secondary paths in turn such that the minimum width of the parallel channel is used to transfer the charge.

25. (Currently Amended) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein ~~the a parallel~~ channel is formed in a serial register.

26. (Currently Amended) A CCD imager according to claim 14, wherein the path defining structures are arranged such that in use signal charge generated across the entire width of ~~the a parallel~~ channel is fed into the principal path from the secondary paths.